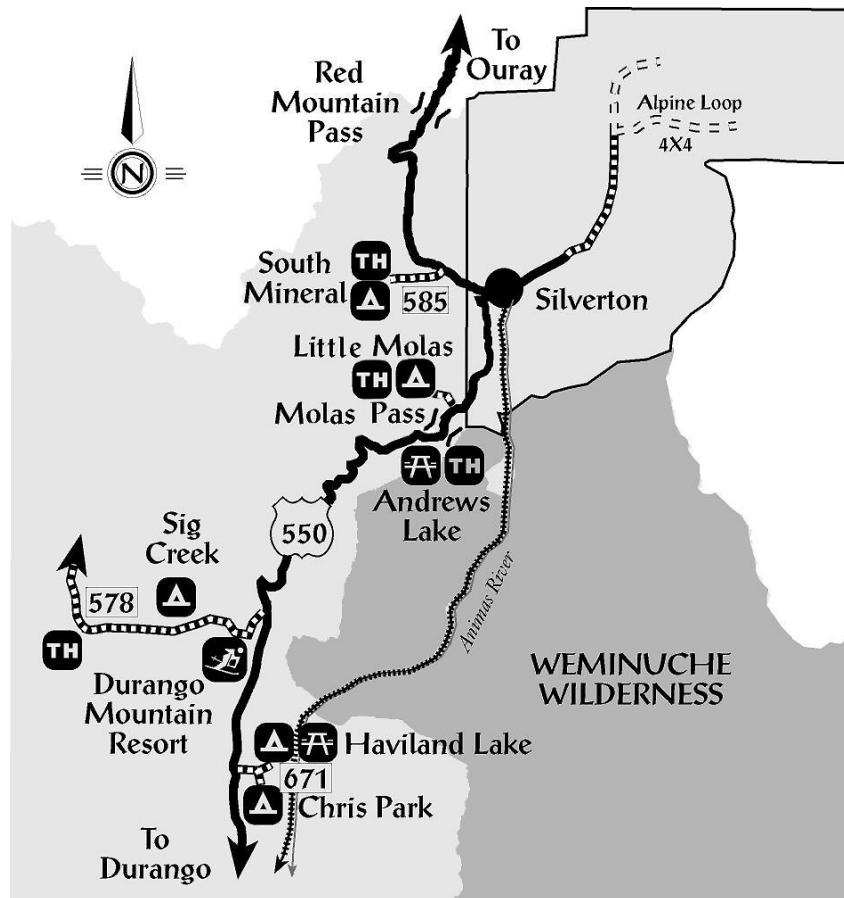


Columbine Public Lands Campgrounds – North of Durango



U.S. Highway 550 (part of the San Juan Skyway) leads north out of Durango, along with the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Groceries, gas, and other services are found in Durango, Hermosa and near Durango Mountain Resort.

Coalbank and Molas passes top 11,000 feet in elevation, with breathtaking views of the Weminuche Wilderness. There are scenic turnouts along the way, some with limited space and sheer drop-offs. The San Juan Skyway enters the Uncompahgre National Forest at Red Mountain Pass. The Alpine Loop BLM Backcountry Byway offers a high-clearance 4WD route at high elevation out of Silverton.

• **HAVILAND LAKE** \$ c P Z h * α

Haviland Lake Campground, about 18 miles north of Durango, is 1 mile east of U.S. Highway 550 on Forest Rd. 671. Its 43 campsites are shaded, with sites for RVs and tents; some near the lakeshore. Several campsites have electrical hookups. Haviland Lake offers barrier-free accessible fishing piers and is wakeless; only boats powered by electric troll motors or hand-rowed are allowed. A trail leads to more secluded fishing at Forebay Lake, about a mile away.

• **CHRIS PARK GROUP CAMPGROUND** \$ (Z h α

The Chris Park Group Campground, 1 mile south of Haviland Lake on Forest Rd. 166, has 3 group campsites offered through advance reservation only; 2 group sites accommodate 75 campers each. One group site can accommodate up to 150 people, with a pavilion, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, electricity and RV access. The park is flat and open, partly shaded. Day hikers enjoy the trailhead for the Rico-to-Rockwood Wagon Road, which was used in the late 1800s before the railroad.

• **SIG CREEK CAMPGROUND** \$ c Z

Sig Creek Campground, 32 miles north of Durango, has 9 campsites on a south-facing hillside about 1/4 mile from the East Fork of Hermosa Creek. The campground is 6 miles west of Durango Mountain Resort on the Hermosa Park Rd. (Forest Rd. 578), accessible by 2WD. Much of this gravel road follows the route of the Scotch Creek Toll Road, which ran from Rico to the Animas Valley in the late 1800s. The road continues over Bolam Pass to Colorado Highway 145 north of Rico. The upper section is 4WD only.

The upper trailhead for the Hermosa Creek Trail is 2 miles past the campground, near the confluence of the main and east forks of Hermosa Creek. The trailhead has a toilet, picnic tables, fire grates, corral and parking area. Fishing in the East Fork of Hermosa Creek is catch-and-release only.

COAL BANK PASS TO SILVERTON

This area is very high in elevation, with Coalbank and Molas passes reaching above 10,000 feet. Facilities are set in alpine and subalpine settings - expect and plan for unpredictable weather - snow and hail are common during summer thunderstorms.

• **LITTLE MOLAS LAKE** C * t \

Little Molas Lake is about 1 mile off US Highway 550 on Molas Pass just north of and on the other side of the highway from the Molas Overlook. The unpaved road leading to this primitive campground is passable by 2WD passenger cars. Little Molas Lake features 10 campsites - 4 are double, 3 have hitching rails for stock animals, and 5 will accommodate RVs. Campers are limited to no longer than a 14-day stay. Campsites have fire grates but no tables. There is no drinking water or trash service offered. Campers must pack out their trash. Motor vehicles must stay on roadways and spurs. There are toilets in the campground and at the trailhead for the Colorado Trail. The trailhead, which is located just past the campground, has 13 vehicle parking spots and 7 large parking spaces for horse trailers. Parking for fishing and day use is offered near the lake. Little Molas is stocked by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

• **ANDREWS LAKE RECREATIONAL AREA** P h t \ *

This alpine lake is accessed about 1/2 mile east of U.S. Highway 550 via a paved road just south of the top of Molas Pass. In winter, the road is gated to traffic and open for non-motorized winter sports, such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The road branches left to an upper parking lot with overnight parking for vehicles and horse trailers using Wilderness trails, but no overnight camping is allowed onsite. Four barrier-free picnic sites and interpretive signs are next to the upper parking lot. Continuing straight on the main access road leads to the day-use parking area at the lake. Barrier-free fishing docks line the south edge. Toilets at both parking lots are universally accessible. The Crater Lake Trail begins here, popular for trips into the Weminuche Wilderness. (Mountain bicycles and motorized vehicles are not allowed inside the Wilderness boundary.)

• **SOUTH MINERAL CAMPGROUND** \$ C Z t *

South Mineral Campground is accessed by turning off U.S. Highway 550 about 3 miles west of Silverton, onto Forest Rd. 585, which heads west along South Mineral Creek. The campground is 4 miles off the highway and has 26 mostly level sites. Several camping loops and well-spaced sites are mostly shaded, but some are sunny. A few are next to the creek, and some have large parking areas. The Ice Lake Basin Trail, a strenuous, steep and popular hike, begins across the road from the campground. It leads up above timberline to high alpine lakes surrounded by meadows of wildflowers and rocky peaks. Please stay on the trail to avoid steep, dangerous drop-offs. Dispersed camping along Forest Rd. 585 is allowed only in designated camping areas. Follow posted directions and instructions. The road to the campground is negotiable by 2WD, but not far after the campground, it becomes 4WD. Driving off-road is prohibited. The Silverton area has many 4WD roads open to motorized use.